

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OSLO 02905 131110Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 GSA-02 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /039 W
-----039633 131114Z /17

P 131055Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5993

UNCLAS OSLO 2905

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, NO
SUBJECT: COBALT

REF: STATE 145925

1. CONSUMPTION: DOMESTIC NORWEGIAN CONSUMPTION OF COBALT INSIGNIFICANT, PROBABLY LESS THAN FIVE METRIC TONS ANNUALLY, ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY SOURCE. MAJOR CONSUMER IS ONE ELECTRO STEEL WORKS. MAJOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR DOMESTIC MARKET IS FALCONBRIDGE NIKKELVERK A/S, KRISTIANSAND S. NORWAY.
2. STOCKS: NO STOCK DATA AVAILABLE. EXCEPT FOR REFINERY INVENTORIES OF ELECTROLYTIC COBALT, STOCKS OF COBALT PRODUCTS ARE LIKELY TO BE INSIGNIFICANT. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON PRODUCT-TYPES IN UNUSUALLY SHORT SUPPLY.
3. PRODUCTION: 1977 PRODUCTION 705 MT; ESTIMATED 1978 OUTPUT 700 MT. FALCONBRIDGE NIKKELVERK A/S ONLY DOMESTIC PRODUCER OF ELECTROLYTIC COBALT EXTRACTED FROM COPPER-NICKEL MATTE. CURRENT OPERATION RATE ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. SO FAR NO PLANS TO EXPAND PRODUCTION IN LIGHT OF RECENT ZAIRE DEVELOPMENTS.
4. PRICES: PRICES CHARGED ARE INTERNATIONAL MARKET PRICES FOR ELECTROLYTIC COBALT. FALCONBRIDGE NIKKELVERK'S UNCLASSIFIED

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MAJOR MARKET IS THE US, SECONDARY MARKET CONTINENTAL EUROPE. NORWEGIAN FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS DOES NOT DISCLOSE VALUE OR VOLUME OF COBALT EXPORTS BECAUSE ONLY ONE DOMESTIC EXPORTER, BUT SUCH DATA SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM US IMPORT STATISTICS. IN APRIL-MAY THIS YEAR FALCONBRIDGE NIKKELVERK'S EXPORTS TO THE US (BALTIMORE) AMOUNTED TO 65 MT, OR PRACTICALLY ITS ENTIRE COBALT PRODUCTION IN THOSE MONTHS.

5. GOVERNMENT POLICIES: GON HAS TAKEN NO ACTION,
AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE ANY ACTION IN RESPONSE TO
CURRENT TIGHT SUPPLY SITUATION.

6. COMPANY ALLOCATION POLICIES: FALCONBRIDGE NIKKELVERK
OFFICIAL TOLD REPORTING OFFICER THAT THE COMPANY ALLOCA-
TION POLICIES ARE DIRECTED BY THE MARKET AND THAT RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS ARE UNLIKELY TO CHANGE EXISTING DISTRIBUTION
PATTERN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COBALT, INFORMATION EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO02905
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780246-0754
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780665/aaaacecd.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b55498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2373736
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COBALT
TAGS: EMIN, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b55498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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